

The Oldest Vocation

CHRISTIAN MOTHERHOOD
IN THE MIDDLE AGES



Clarissa W. Atkinson

The Oldest Vocation

Bruce Robbins



The Oldest Vocation:

The Oldest Vocation Clarissa W. Atkinson, 1991 According to an old story a woman concealed her sex and ruled as pope for a few years in the ninth century but her downfall came when she went into labor in the streets of Rome From this myth to the experiences of saints nuns and ordinary women The Oldest Vocation brings to life both the richness and the troubling contradictions of Christian motherhood in medieval Europe

The Oldest Vocation Clarissa W. Atkinson, 2019-03-15 According to an old story a woman concealed her sex and ruled as pope for a few years in the ninth century Pope Joan was not betrayed by a lover or discovered by an enemy her downfall came when she went into labor during a papal procession through the streets of Rome From the myth of Joan to the experiences of saints nuns and ordinary women The Oldest Vocation brings to life both the richness and the troubling contradictions of Christian motherhood in medieval Europe After tracing the roots of medieval ideologies of motherhood in early Christianity Clarissa W Atkinson reconstructs the physiological assumptions underlying medieval notions about women s bodies and reproduction inherited from Greek science and popularized through the practice of midwifery these assumptions helped shape common beliefs about what mothers were She then describes the development of spiritual motherhood both as a concept emerging out of monastic ideologies in the early Middle Ages and as a reality in the lives of certain remarkable women Atkinson explores the theological dimensions of medieval motherhood by discussing the cult of the Virgin Mary in twelfth century art story and religious expression She also offers a fascinating new perspective on the women saints of the later Middle Ages many of whom were mothers their lives and cults forged new relationships between maternity and holiness The Oldest Vocation concludes where most histories of motherhood begin in early modern Europe when the family was institutionalized as a center of religious and social organization Anyone interested in the status of motherhood or in women s history the cultural history of the Middle Ages or the history of religion will want to read this book

pingClarissa W. Atkinson, The Oldest Vocation ,2000 A World of Their Own Making John R. Gillis, 1997 Discusses ritual events we regard as family traditions and how they must be open to perpetual revision so we can satisfy our human needs and changing circumstances

Sanctity and Motherhood Anneke Mulder-Bakker, 2013-05-13 Increasingly recent scholarship has focused on those married women and mothers in the Middle Ages who achieved holiness The Merovingian Waldetrudis and Rictrudis Ida mother of the crusader king Godfrey of Bouillon Elisabeth of Hungary and Bridget of Sweden are among them Unlike Mary and her mother Saint Anne mother saints whose sanctity was based on motherhood these female parents were honored despite rather than because of their children They were holy mothers whose status as spouses and mothers gave them a public voice and opened for them the road to sanctification They successfully combined marriage and motherhood with a religious life and functioned as holy women in their community Despite increasing respect tension between the roles of saint and wife persisted Saintly women were not expected to be happily married the ancient prejudice against sexual passion and physical ease mitigated the enjoyment of

married life The book's original essays focus on Northern Europe where the cult of Saint Anne reached its climax around 1500 It does not explore Church doctrine and theology as other studies do but examines the religious experience of historical holy mothers and saints and how these women were perceived by their communities and their biographers *The Virgin Mary in the Perceptions of Women* Joelle Mellon, 2008-04-10 Once the Virgin Mary was a pivotal element of Christianity a holy figure at the heart of most Christians' spiritual lives She was invoked at all major life passages baptisms weddings childbirths and funerals and images of the Virgin Mary could be found virtually anywhere from pub signs to sacred texts Medieval women especially looked to Mary to answer their prayers be their role model and serve as their advocate in heaven They prayed to her several times a day and sometimes devoted their entire lives to her service This book investigates perceptions of the Virgin Mary through several centuries of literature Focusing especially on the depictions of the Virgin Mary in medieval and Renaissance manuscripts the author rediscovers a time when the Divine Female was very much in evidence and good Christian women were taught to pray to a Holy Mother Topics include the cyclical popularity of Virgin Mary devotional objects such as Books of Hours rosaries and Marian gardens the mystical qualities attributed to the Virgin Mary through centuries of reported divine visions the historical relationships between the Virgin Mary and other religious figures including the Devil and Mary Magdalene as an alternative to the Virgin Mary as a feminine model *Authority and the Female Body in the Writings of Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe* Liz Herbert McAvoy, 2004 The three archetypal representations of woman in the middle ages as mother as whore and as wise woman are all clearly present in the writings of Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe in examining the ways in which both writers make use of these female categories Dr McAvoy establishes the extent of their success in resolving the tension between society's expectations of them and their own lived experiences as women and writers Jacket **Unmaking Mary** Chine McDonald, 2025-03-13 Astute smart witty and brave A radical deeply thoughtful and essential intervention Lucy Jones author of *Matrescence* A deeply valuable reflection on motherhood Rowan Williams For two thousand years the Virgin Mary has been depicted throughout art literature and culture as symbolising the perfect mother chaste beautiful meek mild and white These supposed virtues and symbols have penetrated not just Christianity but wider popular culture and contributed to harmful views about motherhood and what it is to be a woman In this part memoir part social and theological commentary Chine McDonald deconstructs the myth of perfect motherhood and shines a light on the dark side of parenting From birth trauma to post natal depression from infertility to the mental load the motherhood penalty and pressures on women to be and have it all especially in the church this book attempts to liberate motherhood from the chains in which it has been placed reconstructing a more authentic grace filled way forward for the most important job in the world *Unmaking Mary* will include a foreword written by Beth Allison Barr author of *The Making of Biblical Womanhood* *Negotiating Community and Difference in Medieval Europe* Scott Wells, Katherine Smith, 2009-05-06 This collection builds on the foundational work of Penelope D Johnson John Boswell's most influential

student outside queer studies on integration and segregation in medieval Christianity It documents the multiple strategies by which medieval people constructed identities and in the process wove the boundaries of inclusion and exclusion among various individuals and groups The collection adopts an interdisciplinary approach encompassing historical art historical and literary perspectives to explore the definition of personal and communal spaces within medieval texts the complex negotiation of the relationship between devotee and saint in both the early and the later Middle Ages the forming of partnerships symbolic economic devotional etc between men and women across medieval Europe s considerable gender divide and the ostracism of individuals and groups through various means including imprisonment violence and their identification with pollution Contributors include Diane Peters Auslander Constance Hoffman Berman Elizabeth A R Brown Alexandra Cuffel Anne M Schuchman Jane Tibbetts Schulenburg Katherine Allen Smith Kathryn A Smith Christina Roukis Stern Susan Valentine Susan Wade and Scott Wells *The Permeable Self* Barbara Newman, 2021-09-17 The *Permeable Self* offers medievalists new insight into the appeal and dangers of the erotics of pedagogy the remarkable influence of courtly romance conventions on hagiography and mysticism and the unexpected ways that pregnancy often devalued in mothers could be positively ascribed to men virgins and God God's Mother, Eve's Advocate Tina Beattie, 2002-09-15 The focus of Beattie s book on the theology of woman is to discern the place of the female body in the Christian story of salvation and she has done so from the very heart of Christian stylisations of the female the figures of Mary and Eve **The Curse of Eve, the Wound of the Hero** Peggy McCracken, 2003 She shows that in narratives about a sacrifice a father s relationship to his son is described as shared blood whereas texts about women accused of giving birth to monstrous children define the mother s contribution to conception in terms of corrupted often menstrual blood *Vocations Within the Church* Leonidas Wakefield Crawford, 1920 **Report of the Transactions of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society** Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, 1854 Annual Report of the Transactions of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, 1854 **Vocations for Boys: The machinist** Vocation Bureau of Boston, Vocation bureau, Boston, 1912 **Gender. Nation. Text.** Lorraine Kelly, Tina-Karen Pusse, Jennifer Wood, 2017 This collection explores the multifarious manifestations of gender intrinsic to national ideologies the use of gender in the construction and development of nation states and the role of political literary and cinematographic discourses in cultural debates that define national and international borders in post colonial societies The selected essays focus primarily on Europe and Latin America and consider the implications of colonialism dictatorship and the transition to democracy on national identities as well as the deliberate use of gendered language and images in the development of discourses of hegemony frequently used to underpin support for individual political regimes or as a call to arms to defend national patrimony Series Cultural Studies Kulturwissenschaft Estudios Culturales Etudes Culturelles Vol 55 Subject Gender Studies Politics Sociology Cultural Studies *American Builder*, 1926 From Virile Woman to WomanChrist Barbara Newman, 2011-12-16 Why did hagiographers of

the late Middle Ages praise mothers for abandoning small children How did a group of female mystics come to define themselves as apostles to the dead and end by challenging God's right to damn Why did certain heretics around 1300 venerate a woman as the Holy Spirit incarnate and another as the Angelic Pope In *From Virile Woman to WomanChrist* Barbara Newman asks these and other questions to trace a gradual and ambiguous transition in the gender strategies of medieval religious women An egalitarian strain in early Christianity affirmed that once she asserted her commitment to Christ through a vow of chastity monastic profession or renunciation of family ties a woman could become virile or equal to a man While the ideal of the virile woman never disappeared another ideal slowly evolved in medieval Christianity By virtue of some gender related trait spotless virginity erotic passion the capacity for intense suffering the ability to imagine a feminine aspect of the Godhead a devout woman could be not only equal but superior to men without becoming male she could become a womanChrist imitating and representing Christ in uniquely feminine ways Rooted in women's concrete aspirations and sufferings Newman's womanChrist model straddles the bounds of orthodoxy and heresy to illuminate the farther reaches of female religious behavior in the Middle Ages *From Virile Woman to WomanChrist* will generate compelling discussion in the fields of medieval literature and history history of religion theology and women's studies *Secular Vocations* Bruce Robbins, 1993-07-17 During the 1980s university based intellectuals came under heavy fire from both radicals and conservatives They were accused by the former of betraying their public duty as general critics of society and by the latter of promulgating radical ideologies and corrupting the young In this work the author counters both left and right arguing that the professionalization of literary study was inevitable and fortuitous Robbins undertakes close studies of such figures as Edward Said Fredric Jameson and Raymond Williams while considering the major trends in contemporary cultural studies and giving significant attention to relevant developments in such disciplines as ethnology and sociology *Secular Vocations* ranges over materials from Britain France and the US knitting them together in a synthesis that places in bold relief many of the major controversies in contemporary intellectual life It concludes with a plea for what Robbins calls comparative cosmopolitanism to displace the more militantly particularist projects that have come to dominate the human sciences

Enjoying the Tune of Expression: An Emotional Symphony within **The Oldest Vocation**

In some sort of eaten by screens and the ceaseless chatter of immediate interaction, the melodic beauty and mental symphony developed by the prepared word usually diminish in to the backdrop, eclipsed by the constant noise and distractions that permeate our lives. However, situated within the pages of **The Oldest Vocation** a wonderful fictional prize overflowing with fresh emotions, lies an immersive symphony waiting to be embraced. Crafted by an outstanding musician of language, that interesting masterpiece conducts readers on a psychological journey, well unraveling the hidden tunes and profound affect resonating within each carefully constructed phrase. Within the depths of the moving examination, we will investigate the book is key harmonies, analyze their enthralling publishing type, and surrender ourselves to the profound resonance that echoes in the depths of readers souls.

<https://archive.kdd.org/files/detail/Documents/The%20Blue%20Lake%20Other%20Stories.pdf>

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